



CADP Nursery

BACKGROUND

CADP is the community livelihoods component of the *South West Elephant Corridor* (SWEC) program that was initiated in the Southern Cardamoms in April 2002 by WildAid and its partners. The objective of CADP is to help slash and burn farmers and wildlife poachers develop alternative livelihoods so they no longer need to destroy the forest or wildlife for survival.

The beneficiaries of CADP are among the poorest farmers who, for the past 25 years, have been conducting unsustainable agricultural practices causing the destruction of over 50,000 ha of tropical forest in remote Chi Phat commune. The commune is only accessible to the main road, markets and more settled areas by boat via the Chi Phat River, a trip that normally takes 3 hours. Most of the people living in Chi Phat struggle to live on less than 12 dollars a month per household. Farmers are barely able to secure a basic food supply for themselves and their families. The average rice yields they were eking out of the land were only 1,000 kg/ha, far below national production figures.

During the period between October 2002 and September 2003, WildAid conducted a year of research to serve as the basis for designing the CADP pilot project. This research was based partly on participatory processes, agricultural research, land mapping and population demographics.

Families have voluntarily moved to a new area called Sovanna Baitong. It is located near the main road, and people living in the community have access to health care, schools and fresh water. Special agreements were made with the people and the project resulting in the families establishing themselves on new plots of land for farming and establishing their households.

RESULTS TO DATE

As a result of the project, each family now cultivates one and a half hectares. The land includes 2,500 square meters for home gardens and small livestock raising, 7,500 meters for cash crops, and 5,000 square meters for rice production.

The project is supported by Community Development Specialists and Agronomists who provide daily on-the-job training to farmers. The presence of professional staff on-site has been a major contribution to CADP's success so-far.



CADP Irrigation pump

WildAid is facilitating several processes to ensure the long-term sustainability of the families living in CADP. These will become the key to the farmers' economic independence and include producing and maintaining a family food supply, market oriented crop production for income generation, and a community fund that is managed by the Agriculture Association.

Community Agriculture Development Project (CADP)

